

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 3 remain in the application and have been amended hereby with claim 1 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 3 as containing an informality.

Claim 3 has been amended hereby to meet the objections raised by the examiner.

The cancellation of claim 1 renders moot the rejection thereof under 35 USC 102(e).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Endoh et al.

The present invention is intended to provide an improved and more flexible surround sound system employing a portable auxiliary device for use in combination with a television, for example, wherein the portable device has left and right speakers as well as a center channel speaker and the television has the typical left and right speakers as well. By making the auxiliary device portable, it may be placed in front of the viewers as shown in Fig. 1B, or at the rear of the viewer, as shown in Fig. 2B. This means that then by using the switching device that is also provided in the portable housing that the various different arrangements can be accomplished. In addition, the left and right speakers are separably attached to the portable housing so that they may be repositioned, as shown in Fig. 3B, for example, away from the

center channel speaker. Furthermore, the present invention contemplates the use of an IEEE 1394 bus connection to the television receiver or a USB type connection to the television receiver.

All of the above-mentioned features permit the present invention to provide a more flexible surround sound system utilizing the speakers of the television receiver and the speakers located in the portable housing that may be easily positioned at various locations within the room containing the television receiver or moved to another room containing another television receiver.

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize the above-noted features of the present invention.

Endoh et al. relates to a system for basically downmixing five channel sound for use in two-channel system. Such two-channel systems typically relate to a karaoke-type environment. The examiner notes that in Fig. 4 surround-type speakers are provided. Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that there is no suggestion of a portable housing having left, right, and center speakers arranged therein and, particularly, no portable housing in which the left and right speakers are separably attached thereto. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Endoh et al. does not involve any recording system, since it is entirely a playback operation.

Morevoer, Endoh et al. does not employ the loudspeakers of the television receiver and only provides a monitor as shown in Fig. 4. In addition, in the present invention the switching means is provided in the portable housing so as to

control the outputs provided by the decoder. In Endoh et al. in Figs. 64-68, for example, it is the inputs that are being adjusted by the switching elements shown therein.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is not anticipated by Endoh et al., because of its failure to disclose the above-mentioned items.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Endoh et al.

Claim 3 depends from claim 2, which for the reasons set forth hereinabove, is thought to be patentably distinct and, for at least those very same reasons, claim 3 is also submitted to be patentably distinct thereover.

The deficiencies of Endoh et al. relative to the structure of dependent claim 3 are pointed-out hereinabove.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a multichannel acoustic signal reproducing apparatus, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited reference.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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